



February 2021

February 16 - Finding Our Female Ancestors - Kristin Wenger, professional

genealogist at Roots & Wings-Records of the past often leave us very little information about females in our family history. Learn research strategies to discover more about the lives of these women, especially those elusive maiden names to connect to their families of origin.

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January -1890 Census Work Arounds Steve Ness showed suggestions of sites and documents for finding ancestors in the late 1800s to help fill in for the missing 1890 census.

December Off-Beat Genealogy Sites;

George Nettleton offered a number of sites not usually considered Genealogy sites: E-Bay, Bookfinder.com, World Cat, Gutenberg and some others. If you don't have it, a handout with the sites is available-just email george@nettletons.net

Zoom Note: You don't need a computer, smartphone or tablet to access a Zoom meeting. You can use your land-line phone! When you get the notice from Al, call the phone number and type in the password # when prompted. Hope to see you Monday the 14th at 2:00!

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ANCESTRY ACADEMY is a great free site on Ancestry with a wide variety of videos by genealogy professionals and Ancestry staff. Use this [link](#) and browse the titles to see the breadth-you might even find something you'd like to learn about.

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2020-2021 Programs

Mar: *Genealogy program comparisons* Wayne Barner

Apr: *Organizing Your Genealogy*-Clay Kilgore, Executive Director, Washington County Historical Society

May: *Diseases of our Ancestors*-Rebecca Reinhard, Family History Center

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Descendant Memoir: We genealogists often work in the Past Lane: we use websites, public libraries, courthouses, historical societies, genealogy societies, churches, etc. to get a nice looking tree with all the dates for as many ancestors as we can find with the Golden Fleece of finding Adam...or maybe Noah.. or Queen/King.... in our lineage.

But in your searching, have you ever wondered about why or how an ancestor moved where they did? Why they worked the job they did? How much schooling they had, games they played, diseases they had, how they met their spouse, etc.? I know I have. Wouldn't it be great to find they left a diary or memoir?

Now, did you ever think of your descendants looking for information on you? No? Why not? How about writing an interesting page on an event in your life: how you met your spouse, your favorite sports team and why, why you chose your occupation, your Armed Service experience, a vignette on your best friend, something about the games you played as a child or an adult, and so on, Sort of like single page chapters of your life.

Writing a full-blown family history or even an autobiography can seem daunting and too big a project, but a page every so often, compiled into a 'coffee book' might be doable. It needn't be complete, and whatever you finish is still something for the family to enjoy and know more about you. Again, think how you'd feel finding something like this left by your ancestors.

These can include a photograph or a few photographs, as the seed for the vignette or to give it life.

Think about it. Then write one a week, maybe on each of the three or four Tuesdays between our Club meetings. If you need an example email me and I send a few I've done.

In fact, when we meet live, hopefully September or October, bring in one or more of these memoir sheets to display and share-on the next page is an example of one I've done

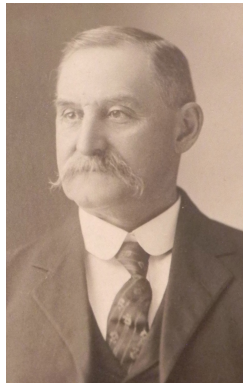
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MY STORIES

My Name



William George Breed
1874-1934



George Riley Blake
1846-1921



Jennie Smith, Amy Nettleton, Raymond K. Smith & Gilbert R. Nettleton
Leon, George, Edith Nettleton
May 25, 1941 (baptism day)

My first name is in honor of my father's uncle William **George** Breed (he went by George) & my grandmother's uncle **George** Riley Blake. My middle name in honor of my mom's brother **Raymond** Kellogg Smith. And my initials are the initials of my father's step-uncle **Gilbert Roy Nettleton**.

George Blake was in the Civil War and an officer in the GAR. (I wear his GAR belt buckle most of the time. We also have a couple of his GAR swords.). He was in the 16th Infantry, Company D, 2nd Battalion, was taken prisoner at Chickamauga and spent 3 months in Andersonville Prison before being exchanged. He served in the battles of Chickamauga, Kennesaw Mt., and the siege of Atlanta. He was wounded at Richmond and hospitalized, where he contracted small pox. He was a Private and 1st Sargent of Company D. His occupation was farming.

Uncle Raymond, when I first knew him, was a traveling salesman/delivery person for the West Stockbridge Baldwin Pharmacy, which made extracts-it always smelled good in there. He also served in the 2nd World War, and later worked at G.E. in Pittsfield, I believe. His wife, Corrine Consolini, was a Roman Catholic, which irked my grandmother Jennie Smith, as her family was "always" Congregational (Protestant). In later years, Uncle Ray & Aunt Corrine finally purchased their own house (they'd rented at least 3 houses in West Stockbridge previously), on the Barrington Road-it was a prefab and while it fitted on the pre-formed basement, the front entrance or steps, had to be modified, as they didn't match the foundation. He had maple trees in the back yard and we sometimes got some of his maple syrup. His son, Ray jr. also worked at GE, married Gayle Tanner and had two children: Shawn (now in Pittsfield, MA) with his wife Christine; and Amber & Jeremy Didier, are now in Maryland with daughter Evangeline (all as of 2018)

Gilbert Roy "Uncle Bert" Nettleton was the son of Asahel Newton Nettleton, same as my Grandfather Archie, but uncle Bert's mom was Sarah Sawyer-Asahel's 2nd wife. Uncle Bert never married, was in WW I, was a mechanic, had his own garage for a while, also worked with my Grandfather in the insurance business for a while. He later lived with my Grandparents-even after Grandfather Archie died. Uncle Bert made my wooden tool chest, which originally had our GRN initials on it-but I since painted it (white) and the initials seem to have worn off over the years.